

## Snow White turns 50!

**T**he movie was given a restricted rating in Britain — children under 18 had to be accompanied by an adult — although in the U.S. and Australia, it was a movie for family audiences.

In Hollywood, everyone said the movie could never work. They dubbed the whole project an expensive folly.

At a cost of more than \$2 million, it was enormously expensive for the times and took more than three years to make.

But the movie not only made big money in its first year, it also won Oscar after Oscar and became the biggest blockbuster money-spinner of its time.

The film was *Snow White And The Seven Dwarfs*.

*Snow White*, the first-ever full-length animated feature and, until *Gone With The Wind* appeared in 1939, the biggest box-office winner, remains one of the world's favorite films. This year, *Snow White*, *Sneezy*, *Happy*, *Dopey*, *Grumpy*, *Doc*, *Sleepy* and *Bashful* turn 50, and Walt Disney Studios are pulling out all stops to celebrate.

Disney's party will last all year long and the studio is re-releasing the classic film — in Australia in July — which has kept children of all ages enchanted since it burst on to the screen in 1937.

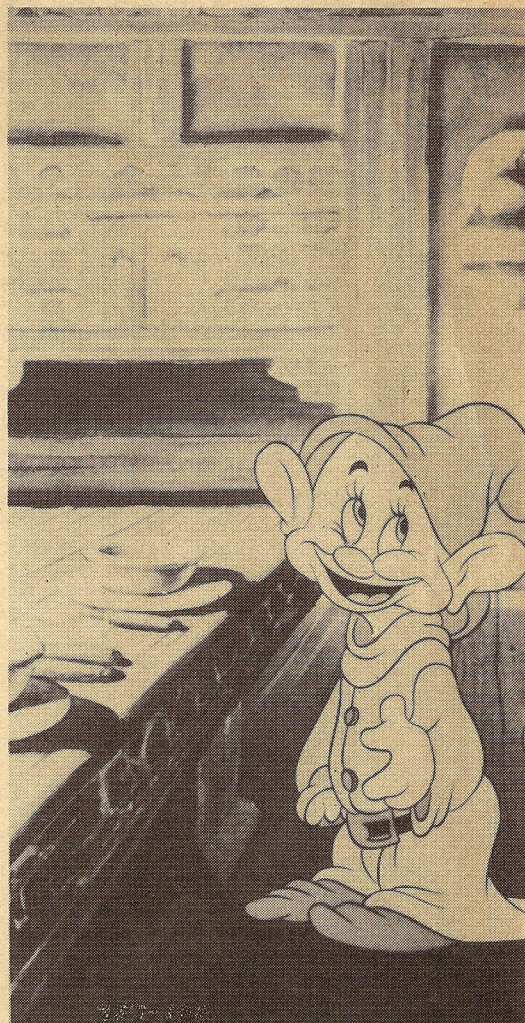
For the Disney Studios at Burbank in Los Angeles there is good reason to celebrate *Snow White's* birthday — more reason in fact than there was in 1984, when Donald Duck turned 50, or 1978, when Mickey Mouse hit his half-century.

*Snow White* made film history as the first-ever full-color, full-length, animated film and won the young, visionary genius Walt Disney one large Oscar and seven small Oscars in 1939. And now, Disney Studios, which for the past two decades has slumped into the doldrums, is back on top with hit movies like *Ruthless People*, *The Color Of Money*, *Down And Out In Beverly Hills* and the soon-to-be-seen *Outrageous Fortune*.

*Snow White* herself did not start off with dark hair, rosy cheeks and dark eyes. Instead, the original animators had her in the Germanic fairytale tradition a blonde *Rapunzel*, but finally it was decided 'dark' was best.

The Prince, too, went through changes. His horse, in original sequences, was given comic routines that were edited from the final print.

The dwarfs also caused problems. "You'd find animators going along the Disney corridors muttering 'seven of them, seven!'" says Ken O'Connor, an Australian animator who went to work for Disney during the Thirties. Until that time,



## Julie's tribute

**S**inging superstar Julie Anthony was amazed when she realised how few Australians knew the words to their national anthem. So she worked it into her high-powered act and brought audiences to their feet.

Julie has now released a recording of *Advance Australia Fair* which she hopes will reach every school and library in the nation. With a 65-piece orchestra and a 100-voice choir, the sound of the revamped anthem is impressive.

"People don't realise what a good song it is," says Julie. "Tommy Tycho's arrangements have made it special. It's a lovely song about Australia... it's a great country after all!"

Last year, Julie toured the country with her husband and manager Eddie Natt for 10 gruelling months. She says the tour would have been a "mission impossible" had her parents not accompanied them to look after their two-year-old granddaughter Talitha.

"I really enjoyed the tour — especially the country areas. We did about 70,000km in all."





## Sidney Sheldon: another bestseller

**R**omance, intrigue, treason and conspiracy . . . these are the delicious ingredients in Sidney Sheldon's latest blockbuster *Windmills Of The Gods*.

Sidney is riding high as No.1 on the bestseller lists in America, and he's looking forward to visiting his many fans in Australia.

He reveals: "I never start with a plot, I always start with a character. I dictate the first draft to a secretary and as I'm talking the story unfolds. I'm just like the readers . . . I don't know what's going to happen next."

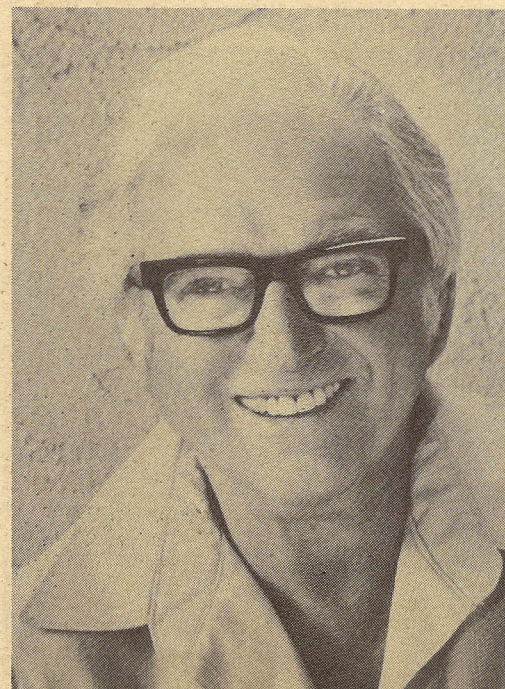
In all his novels the main characters are women — successful, beautiful and intelligent.

"I think women are far more interesting than men. They are more complex and sensitive."

His wife Jorja, to whom *Windmills Of The Gods* is dedicated, died two years ago and Sidney, 69, confesses that loneliness has set in. "I write about exciting women and I hope to meet some in Australia," he says candidly.

He feels uncomfortable with the 'famous novelist' label. "I never imagined I'd be so successful. I still find it hard to believe."

● Turn to page 38 for Part One of *Windmills Of The Gods*.



no animators had ever had to delineate seven distinct individuals on screen at one time.

In three years more than one million drawings were made for the film, with 250,000 finally being chosen. Thirty-two animators worked with 102 assistants, 107 'inbetweeners' (those who fill in bits of action between the animators' drawings), 20 layout men, 25 background artists, 65 special effects animators (those who draw smoke, clouds and water) and 158 professionals adept at inking and painting the figures on transparent celluloid sheets.

Finding the voice for Snow White was not easy. Previously, Disney had worked with cartoon voices and fun voices, and the studio had never required a natural voice. For Snow White, it wanted one which

Top: Originally, Snow White was a blonde.

Above: The Seven Dwarfs caused problems for Disney's animators.

would sound ageless as well as friendly, natural and innocent. More than 150 young girls auditioned, but all were turned down. The search continued until 17-year-old Adriana Caselotti asked her father, a voice teacher and vocal coach, "Why not me?"

Today, in her 60s, Adriana can still sing *I'm Wishing, Someday My Prince Will Come* and those famous trills.

"I feel very blessed to have been Snow White," she says today. "Not everyone gets a chance to be part of a classic like Snow White."

Snow White is 50, and she never looked better.